

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Full Commission Board Meeting – Approved 9/1/06  
June 2, 2006  
1313 Farnam on the Mall, Room 225  
Omaha, NE  
9:00 a.m.**

**Chairperson Ms. Barbara Woodhead called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.**

**A. Roll Call**

Members present were Ms. Mary Ann Burke, Mr. Daniel Darnall, Mr. James DeVaney, Ms. Luana Duennerman, Dr. Kenya Taylor, and Ms. Barbara Woodhead. Absent were Mr. Mike Carruthers, Ms. Margaret Coleman and Ms. Pamela Duin. Staff present was Ms. Tanya Wendel, Executive Director and Ms. Lori Burrage, Business Manager. Interpreters were Ms. Lorelei Waldron and Mr. David Borgaila.

**B. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Ms. Woodhead asked for changes or additions to the agenda. Ms. Luana Duennerman requested to add an item under H. New Business, Brochures. **Mr. DeVaney made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Mr. Darnall seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, absent; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Dr. Taylor, yes; Ms. Woodhead, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**C. Acceptance of the Minutes**

**1. Full Commission Meeting – March 3, 2006**

Ms. Woodhead asked for changes or additions to the minutes. **Mr. Darnall made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Duennerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, absent; Mr. Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Dr. Taylor, yes; Ms. Woodhead, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

*Ms. Margaret Coleman arrived at 9:14 a.m.*

**Public Comments**

Ms. Wendel introduced Ms. Rhonda Fleischer with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Ms. Fleischer replaced Mr. Robert Hill. Ms. Fleischer asked for input on the American Sign Language State Board of Education Policy. The policy recognizes ASL as a national language and allows students to get credit as a world language (previously known as foreign language). It appears this policy will pass in June; it may take up to a year for the certification committee to determine the requirements for teachers of the classes. The teachers may be paired with a fluent ASL user until the requirements are established; they want to insure good quality classes. The next NDE meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2006. An interpreter will be provided from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. so the policy will be addressed at that time. Ms. Wendel stated there was some disappointment that the legislature did not pass the ASL bill, asking if post secondary institutions will parallel this policy. Ms. Fleischer feels this may have more power with educational bodies than a legislative bill. They are still working on if this

will meet the foreign language credit for college entrance since it has not been offered yet. Ms. Woodhead stated one concern the legislature had was how the bill would affect NDE; the legislature may be more willing to look at the bill again if NDE passes this policy. Ms. Woodhead thanked Ms. Duennerman, Mr. Lindsay Darnall, Jr., Mr. Norm Weverka, the Chadwicks, Ms. Fleischer and NDE for their work on this policy.

#### **D. Chairperson's Report**

##### **1. Appointment**

##### **2. Ms. Coleman's Service**

Ms. Woodhead announced Mr. Joseph Caruso has been appointed to fill Ms. Coleman's vacancy. Ms. Woodhead recognized Ms. Coleman's six year service and presented her with a plaque.

##### **3. Open Meetings Bill – LB 898**

Ms. Wendel explained the open meeting law changes that will become effective on July 14, 2006. The entire bill will be posted on the Secretary of State's website.

##### **4. Director's Annual Review**

**Mr. Darnall made a motion to close the meeting for discussion of the Executive Director's annual performance review. Ms. Burke seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, yes; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Dr. Taylor, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was closed at 9:48 a.m.**

**Ms. Burke made a motion to reopen the meeting at 10:31 a.m. Ms. Duennerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, yes; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Dr. Taylor, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Results of the closed meeting. Mr. DeVaney made a motion to grant a 4% salary increase for Ms. Wendel and to include #18 on the performance rating and change #3 to #4. Dr. Taylor seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, yes; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Dr. Taylor, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Ms. Woodhead thanked Ms. Wendel for her service to the Commission.**

#### **E. Executive Director's Report**

##### **1. Staff Update**

##### **a. Mentor Coordinator Hired**

Ms. Wendel announced the mentor coordinator position has been filled by Ms. Rayni Kaika, who will start on June 19, 2006, based in Omaha with statewide travel. Ms. Kaika currently works at Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD). Several recent MCC graduates are interested in the mentor program.

##### **b. Licensing Regulations**

##### **a. Revised Draft 4/21/06**

##### **b. Licensing Correspondence**

Ms. Wendel explained the additions; on the index page, added language connected with CEUs, language for investigating complaints and disciplinary action,

license expiration and disciplinary action against a license. These changes will match the licensing bill that was passed. Ms. Wendel explained that the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) is offering new certificates; NIC, NIC Advanced and NIC Master. Ms. Woodhead requested each change be addressed individually and to discuss the Specialty license connected with legal interpreters. She has received concerns from interpreters that simply having a RID certification does not guarantee a better skilled interpreter than a QAST 5. Only a RID legal certificate will guarantee that. This will further restrict interpreters from interpreting in legal settings.

Ms. Woodhead asked for a motion to accept Section 6, as amended to include CEU language. This requires 20 hours of approved continuing education. The course training must be approved by the Licensing Board. **Dr. Taylor made a motion to accept Section 6 as amended. Ms. Duennerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, yes; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Dr. Taylor, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Ms. Woodhead asked for a motion to accept Sections 008.03 and 008.04. **Mr. DeVaney made a motion to accept. Ms. Burke seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, yes; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Dr. Taylor, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Ms. Woodhead asked for a motion to accept Sections 011.02C and 011.03C. **Dr. Taylor made a motion to accept. Mr. DeVaney seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, yes; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Dr. Taylor, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Ms. Woodhead stated NeRID is reviewing the Specialty license issue, Section 003.02. A RID certification is a minimal skill level and does not guarantee a higher qualified interpreter than a QAST level 5 that is currently interpreting in legal settings. The only guarantee is a legal certification from RID. Ms. Frances Beaurivage and Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff are asking the Board to reconsider approving this. Ms. Wendel suggested the Commission approve the document today and the public can provide their input at the public hearing which will be scheduled after the next Licensing board meeting. Ms. Wendel asked the Deaf organizations to provide their input at the public hearing since it affects them the most. They need to tell the Licensing board if they are comfortable with QAST level 4/5 interpreters in legal settings. **Mr. Darnall made a motion to proceed with the licensing document, table the discussion on the Specialty license until the Licensing Review Board meets, the public hearing is held and until we have feedback from the Deaf and interpreter organizations. Ms. Duennerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, abstained; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Dr. Taylor, yes. Motion passed with five votes in favor and one abstention.**

### **3. Program Updates**

#### **a. Comment/Complaint Form**

Ms. Wendel stated the form has been posted on the web for about six weeks with approximately five complaints received, mostly connected with interpreters in

medical settings. Ms. Wendel wants a formal compliant review process that will include timelines for responding to the complaints. Mr. Linsay Darnall, Jr. is concerned the complaint form may be too complicated for some deaf people. He heard there was to be a mini workshop to train people on using the complaint form. He feels the form needs to be simpler or have the workshops. Ms. Woodhead feels there needs to be a variety of options available; the internet forms as well as board members and staff need to attend the Deaf organization meetings to gather information or complaints. There is a need to become proactive on discrimination and interpreter issues in medical and post secondary settings. Ms. Wendel will be meeting with a company that is providing unqualified interpreters in medical settings as a result of this complaint form. Ms. Wendel will follow up with Ms. Duennerman and Mr. Weverka on getting the mini workshops setup and look into simplifying the form. Mr. Linsay Darnall, Jr. suggested a brochure on discrimination and placing ads in the NSDAA newsletter.

#### **b. Mental Health Advisory Committee Minutes**

Ms. Duennerman asked how the Advisory committee feels about LB 87 not including hospitals or medical settings. Ms. Wendel responded the committee is aware of it; part of the reason medical settings are not included is because the Senator did not want to take on the hospital lobbyists at this time. The Commission wanted a comprehensive bill that covered every situation, however, the Senator felt we needed to start small and broaden coverage at a later time. Ms. Woodhead has heard from some of the hospital administrators and they are interested in meeting the requirements even though it is not mandated by law. Ms. Duennerman asked about Child Protective Services. Ms. Wendel stated Ms. Melinda Brown is very concerned about social workers not understanding how to work with deaf and hard of hearing children. Ms. Williams and Ms. Brown will be speaking with CPS social workers on the communication needs for these children. The committee would like Boys Town to have a 30 day adolescent mental health/drug and alcohol treatment program. Immanuel-Alegent is being approached to have a specialist on staff or designating a wing for deaf and hard of hearing children. The numbers are small which may be a factor.

#### **c. Emergency Preparedness Training**

Ms. Wendel stated currently there is no training being offered in this area. Ms. Wendel has contacted Mr. Claude Stout and Ms. Glenna Cooper requesting training or a stipend for individuals traveling for the CEPIN training. If not, we need to find an alternative program as it is important to get information to deaf and hard of hearing people on what to do in an emergency.

### **4. Budget**

#### **a. Fiscal Year 06/07 General Program**

#### **b. FY06/07 Program (Mental Health)**

#### **c. Biennium Budget Request 07-09**

Ms. Burrage explained the continuation budget proposals and asked for input on asking for additional funding for the 07-09 budget period. **Dr. Taylor made a motion to accept the continuation budget proposal for subprogram 00. Ms. Duennerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, yes; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Dr. Taylor, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mr. Darnall made a motion to accept the continuation budget proposal for**

**subprogram 01. Ms. Burke seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carruthers, absent; Ms. Coleman, yes; Mr. Darnall, yes; Mr. DeVaney, yes; Ms. Duin, absent; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Dr. Taylor, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.** Recommendations for an adjusted budget request for 07-09 were for an office in Scottsbluff and a part-time interpreter position.

**5. Business Manager Report**

**a. General Ledger**

No discussion.

**F. Subcommittee Reports**

**1. Goals Committee**

**a. Strategic Planning Steering Committee**

**1. Feedback Questionnaire**

**b. Staff Strategic Planning Meeting**

Dr. Taylor reported the committee discussed stakeholders and the vision and mission statements. After reviewing the staff suggestions, the committee agreed to keep the current mission statement as it is specific to what we do. Accepted the changes to the vision and purpose statements. Changes to the stakeholders map include adding children, media and caretakers. The committee requested the staff continue working on objectives, developing activities to meet the major goals and to mail out the survey. Ms. Wendel suggested color coding the survey so we know who is responding. Ms. Woodhead suggested identifying rural areas to ensure their needs are being met. Two boxes could be added to the survey; rural and urban and ask if they are members of deaf or hard of hearing organizations. Mr. DeVaney suggested distributing the surveys at organization meetings and collecting them at that time. Ms. Duennerman asked who would be responsible for attending the meetings. Ms. Woodhead asked the Commission members to volunteer to help. Recommendation was to add a section on the survey asking for feedback on the purpose statement.

**2. TRS Advisory Committee**

**a. Relay Surcharge**

**b. Telephone Industry Appointment**

**c. Equipment Statistics**

Mr. DeVaney reported the seven cent surcharge changed to five cents. Ms. Wendel reported the Nebraska Equipment Distribution Program (NEDP) ran out of money on March 1 and the Public Service Commission (PSC) is looking to us to introduce legislation to change the equipment portion from one cent to two cents or change the language to be more flexible. This would allow PSC to make changes as needed. The recommendation was made to proceed with changing the legislation.

**3. Interpreter Issues**

**a. Interpreter Referral Task Force 3/4/06**

**1. Interpreter Referral Updates**

**b. Interpreter Referral Task Force 5/5/06**

Ms. Woodhead reported the task force is reviewing the referral process to include the new testing. Mentor training and VRS are increasing the availability of interpreter services.

**4. Deaf/Hard of Hearing Issues**

**a. March 25, 2006 Meeting**

**b. Open Round Table Discussion 6/3/06**

The Open Round Table meeting is June 3, 2006, to discuss the possible purchase of Orchard Manor Apartments.

**5. Legislative Committee**

**a. LB 87 Licensing Bill**

No discussion.

**G. Old Business**

**1. Election of Officers**

Mr. Darnall was elected Chairperson; Mr. DeVaney, Vice Chairperson and Ms. Duennerman, Secretary.

**H. New Business**

**1. Brochures**

Ms. Duennerman received sign language brochures, 100 Signs for Parents, 100 Signs for Emergencies and 100 Signs for Travel. She is going to request a donation of 100 each.

**I. Announcements**

**1. Lead Mentor Workshop**

The workshop is scheduled for June 24 – 25, 2006. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Woodhead are the trainers. There will be additional training in September for deaf language mentors.

**2. Interpreter Article**

No discussion.

**3. Statewide Meeting for the Education of Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

No discussion.

**Next Meeting**

**September 1, 2006 – North Platte Office at 9:00 a.m.**

Ms. Wendel thanked Ms. Woodhead for serving as the Chairperson the last two years.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm